

A NOTE FROM DEACON RICK

As I make my way from the subway station at Herald Square down 6th Avenue, symbols of wealth and glitz are everywhere. Shoppers tote their latest fashion buys like prized possessions.

I take a right turn on to West 31st Street and the landscape changes dramatically. Just steps away from the flagship Macy's and Nordstrom store is a place that I've dubbed "Cardboard Village." A long line of residents sleep in makeshift boxes that they trust will shield them from the elements.

Soon they will be awakened to the sound of bells from nearby St. Francis of Assisi Church. Time to get in the Breadline for a day's worth of rations.

The St. Francis Breadline has been operating here since 1930. The Franciscans are proud to point out that Breadline has missed just one day of service in these 75 years. It was during superstorm Sandy when the street was flooded.

The Breadline begins service each day at 7 am but volunteers arrive well beforehand to assemble the day's meal packages. For the past 30 days this has been my morning workplace. A place to witness Franciscan spirituality in its purist form.

I first encountered St. Francis of Assisi Church just after the World Trade Center tragedy. My office moved from there to midtown Manhattan, which then required commuting from New Jersey through Penn Station.

There were a number of choices for walking the last leg of my journey to work from 31st St. and 7th Ave. to 45th St. and 6th Avenue. One was walking directly past this Church. And so, on many mornings, I would stop in for a prayer or even morning mass.

This was a place that brought me comfort and solace during a difficult time. It was the parish of Father Mychal Judge, the first to lose his life at the World Trade Center on September 11.

The 14 friars and 3 priests who reside here are not guests in this neighborhood. They ARE the neighborhood. Standing side-by-side with Brother Andrew, one of the Friars, I notice the ease with which he navigates the crowd. He not only knows most of the patrons by name, he also knows their life stories.

"Many of these folks had middle-class lives," he tells me. "A lot are ex-military who suffered wounds in combat that never healed. Or cannot function in society due to severe trauma or stress disorder. Others are ordinary folks who work 2 or 3 jobs and still can't make ends meet due to inflation far outpacing wage increases."

This is a special place, where the presence of Jesus Himself is felt every morning. As a reminder, a bronze statue of a man sitting with his hand extended sits out front. A plaque behind it reads, "Matthew 25:40. Whatsoever you did for the least of my brothers or sisters, you did for me."

Welcome to Franciscan spirituality, where living the Gospel is more important than proclaiming the Gospel. Where actions speak louder than words. And where worship of Christ is accomplished by becoming His hands and feet on earth.

Deacon Rick



Giving Portal

Upcoming Events & Mass Intentions

Saturday Oct 18

10:30am- Confessions

5pm- Mass (Mary M. Baker †)

Sunday Oct 19

9am- Mass (Parishioners of StMM)

10:15am- Breaking Open The Word

11am- Mass (Collette Thomas †)

1-3pm- Gabriel Project *Baby Shower*

4:30pm- Apostello

6pm- Youth Mass (Lisa Marie Valenti †)

6:30pm- Sunday Night Men's Bible Study

7:15pm- EDGE and the Way

Monday Oct 20

9am- Mass (Jose Mario Escorcía †)

10:30am- Catholic Senior Org. Meeting

6:30pm- Family Rosary

8pm- Adult Pick-up Basketball

Tuesday Oct 21

9am- Mass in the Chapel (John & Theresa Mihalyo)

1pm- Daytime Bible Study

6:15pm- Gather/ ROCK

Wednesday Oct 22

9am- Mass (Charles Roba †)

10am- Forward in Hope

6:30pm- Walking with Purpose

8pm- Adult Pick-up Basketball

Thursday Oct 23

9am- Mass (Briley Willis)

9:50am- Morning Rosary with CSO

10am- Walking with Purpose

6:30pm- Hearts on Fire Prayer Meeting

Friday Oct 24

9am- Mass (Ron Alfred †)

Saturday Oct 25

10:30am- Confessions

5pm- Mass (John Sherland †)

Sunday Oct 26

9am- Mass (Milan & Olga Rigel †)

10:15am- Breaking Open The Word

11am- Mass (Iris Sincerbox †)

2:45pm- Chrysalis Meeting

6pm- Youth Mass (Parishioners of StMM)

6:30pm- Sunday Night Men's Bible

Mass This Weekend

Click [HERE](#) to Live Stream our 9am Sunday Mass.

We livestream our Daily Mass on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

*Please note that the schedule may occasionally change due to unforeseen circumstances, and we appreciate your understanding.

Music for Sunday Masses

Gathering: 10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

Responsorial Psalm: 121: Our Help Is From The Lord

Preparation: Trust In God

Communion 1: I Am The Bread Of Life/Come And Follow Me

Communion 2: Gratitude

Communion 3: Jesus I Surrender (Instrumental)

Sending Forth: Praise

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Take this opportunity to consider donating flowers to St. Mary Magdalene to beautify the altar and church for weekly Mass to honor our Lord. These flowers will be donated in honor of or in memory of your loved one. Click [here](#). For questions, contact floralministry@stmm.net



SCAM ALERT

You might have received an email that appears to come from Fr. Mike asking for help, money, or gift cards. Please know that these are phishing emails and they are a scam. All legitimate emails from Fr. Mike will ONLY come from mcoveyou@stmm.me.

PARISH LIFE CENTER



We have now surpassed over \$3 Million Dollars donated to our campaign, *from only 100 families*. We are well on our way to making our pledge goal.

Pledge cards will be arriving in your mailbox soon. Once you receive yours, please fill it out and drop it in the offertory basket or put it in the mail. If you need an extra, you can find more on the Campaign table in the narthex.

We need everyone's participation to make this campaign a success and we thank you for your continued support, generosity, and commitment to the life and mission of our parish.

Would you like to learn more? Visit [HERE](#) to learn all about our new Parish Life Center and how it will benefit our StMM community.

Ministry, Group, and Event Highlights



Advent with Purpose

Does the approaching holiday season make you feel tired just thinking about it? Are you looking for a way to bring meaning to this Advent season? Could you grow closer to Christ this year, despite the hustle and bustle, as we anticipate His holy coming as an infant in a manger? Come join women just like you who are looking for an Advent With Purpose! We are excited to host speaker Laura Phelps, a nationally known Catholic speaker and author, who will



"Store-age" space needed!

Gabriel Project has been collaborating with parishes in our area and their regional network recently received a grant enabling them to store donated baby and maternity items for all churches in the Raleigh Diocese. But their vision goes beyond just storage — they want to create a safe, welcoming, store-like space where moms facing crisis pregnancies can select what they need for their babies with dignity and respect.

To make this vision a reality,



StMM Safety and Security Ministry

We are seeking fellow parishioners interested in volunteering to provide safety and security measures to keep our parishioners, families, and guests safe during parish events. Volunteers will be trained on how to actively participate during Mass, parish events, and after-hour programs to monitor and ensure the safety of everyone attending. They will help maintain a safe and secure environment and, if necessary, provide an initial

guide us, enlighten us, and even make us laugh for a morning of friendship and fellowship! Save the date for Thursday, Dec. 11 at 10am. The cost will be \$25 and registration will open on November 10. For more information visit [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

they're seeking a large, well-lit, and accessible room or storage space in a professional building or storefront. The space should be available for lease at \$300/month or less. If you can help or know of a space, please contact gabrielproject@stmm.net

trained response to ensure the safety of parishioners and attendees until emergency first responders arrive. For more information on the program, please click [HERE](#).

Church News, School News, Ministries, Groups, and Events

Please click on the link for more information.

Church News

- **Baptism Information**
- **Safe Environment Training for Volunteers**
- **OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation):** For those looking to become fully initiated into the Catholic Faith, a new cohort is forming to begin on Mon., Nov 3. Please click here to learn more.
- **First Friday Eucharistic Adoration** information may be found here.
- **Adult Faith Refresher & Confirmation Prep with Deacon Rick-** Next series will begin on Wed., Oct. 22.
- **Divorced Catholics Seeking an Annulment-** more information can be found by clicking here.
- **Join Father Mike on a Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes, & Spain** from 4/28/26 through 5/8/26.
- **Our Sound and Video System** Ministry needs help with Masses, Funerals, and Weddings. The hours and commitment level are flexible. Can you help us out?
- **Breaking Open The Word** is a new weekly Gospel discussion group that is held after the 9am Sunday Mass.
- **The 2025 StMM Annual Stewardship Report** is now available on our website.

Ministries, Groups, & Events Continued

- **Prayers & Squares Prayer Quilt Ministry**
- **Traveling St. John Vianney Ministry-** sign up to pray for our priests.
- **Project Rachel Support Group** - for hope and healing after abortion.
- **Courage** - A support group for those facing same-sex attraction.
- **EnCourage-** A support group for relatives of people who experience same-sex attraction.
- **Walking with Purpose** started a 22-week bible study on Sept. 4, especially designed for women to grow in faith and love for the Lord.
- **Are you gluten-free** due to a medical condition and need a low-gluten Communion Host? Click here to learn how to receive low-gluten Communion at StMM.
- **Hearts on Fire**, a charismatic prayer group with Deacon Dev, meets in the Church at 6:30pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.
- **Calling all Prayer Warriors-** StMM's Prayer Team needs an organizer. Will you help us out?
- **The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** on Oct 24-26 at Emerald Isle will help you to rediscover the best friend you had when you were first married. Sign up today!
- **StMM Book Club** meets the first Wednesday of the month to discuss

School News

- Thinking about a Catholic education for your child? StMM school tours are now being scheduled.
- 2026-2027 School Year Applications are now being accepted.

Ministries, Groups, & Events

- The Gabriel Project is having a baby shower at StMM on Sunday, Oct 19 at 1pm for an expectant mother.
- Frassati Young Adult Group will meet on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 3-6pm to make dinner at the Ronald McDonald House in Durham.
- The Columbiettes will be selling Advent wreaths, Advent candles, and chocolate Advent calendars the first two weekends in November. More details to come soon!
- Advent With Purpose- Walking with Purpose is hosting Laura Phelps, a nationally known Catholic Speaker, author, and content leader, on Thursday, Dec. 11 from 10am to 12:30pm. Save the date and join for an inspiring morning!
- The Cristo Rey Classic Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, Oct. 20. All proceeds go to support Cristo Rey students.
- Would you like to be an Angel for expectant mothers? Gabriel Project needs Walking Angel volunteers to accompany women facing crisis pregnancies with prayer, practical assistance, and loving friendship.
- StMM Community Golf Outing hosted by Parish Athletics- Save the Date- April 20, 2026. Click for more information on how to register.
- The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Blood Drive on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 8:30am to 1pm in the StMM School Parking Lot.
- a selected reading. The next meeting is on Nov 5. Everyone is welcome. Click here for more information.
- StMM Daytime Bible Study will meet on Tuesdays from 1-3pm from Sept 16 to Nov 18. Please click here to learn more and register.
- St. Mary Magdalene's marriage enrichment fellowship group, Chrysalis, provides space monthly for couples to grow in their love for God & their spouse. Childcare is provided.
- Chrysalis is seeking teen volunteers for their Sunday Childcare Team. Please click here if you are able to help out.
- Catholic Senior Organization (CSO) meets the 3rd Monday of the month. The next meeting is on Monday, Oct. 20, at 10:30am
- A Bible study on the Book of Revelation will begin on Thursday, Sept. 18 at 6:30pm with Deacon Dev and continue approximately every other week. All are welcome to join at any time.
- Forward in Hope, a Christ-centered faith-sharing group for those seeking consolation after the loss of a loved one, will begin a new session on October 8.
- October is the Month of the Holy Rosary, and the Columbiettes are providing handmade rosaries in the Narthex after Mass for parishioners to pray with all month.
- The St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Andrew the Apostle is seeking members to help with our mission to help those in need. They will have an information session on Sunday, Oct. 26, at 4:00 p.m. in the St. Andrew Fellowship Hall.
- Register now for the 12th Annual Catholic Charities Gala of Hope being held on Saturday, Nov. 8th.
- Parish Athletics Winter Basketball registration is now open for grades Pre-K to 6th.

Pictures of the Week



From Kelly Rappl, the Director of Catholic Parish Outreach Food Pantry:
On behalf of the people we serve at Catholic Parish Outreach, we want to thank St. Mary Magdalene parish for the generous donations given during the food drive. The response was wonderful, with a donation of 4,518 pounds and \$3,044 for families in need!
In the fiscal year of 2024, we gave a week's worth of groceries to over 101,000 people! Our outreach ministry to those in need would not be possible without the assistance of the members of our community and parishes. We are blessed by your devotion to helping the food insecure in our midst.
If you'd like to donate to Catholic Parish Outreach, please click [HERE](#).



Kelly and Jordan Hockaday were married on Friday, October 10, by Deacon Dev.



Fr. Francis had his picture taken with Apex Mayor Jacques Gilbert at the Parish Picnic.



Thank you to all the volunteers who made our 25th Anniversary Parish Picnic a huge success! We are especially grateful to the Knights of Columbus for cooking and providing the delicious food for the event. Everyone had a great time celebrating together! Click [HERE](#) to see more pictures (and a few fun

FOLLOW StMM ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Faith Formation

[Click HERE for the 2025-2026 Faith Formation Calendar](#)



[Please click here for more information and to sign up](#)



[Please click HERE for more information](#)



The EDGE Retreat will be held November 18-19 at Camp Caraway in Sophia, NC. Please click [HERE](#) for more information and how to register.



[Please click HERE to sign up](#)

Questions about Faith Formation:

GATHER (K-4th grade)- contact Suzanne Will at will@stmm.net or 919-657-4800 x7280

THE ROCK (5th & 6th grade)- contact Sarah St. Aubin at st.aubin@stmm.me or 919-657-4800 x7307

EDGE (7th & 8th grade)- contact Sarah St. Aubin at st.aubin@stmm.me or 919-657-4800 x7307

Apostello and the Way (9th-12th grade)- contact Niki Furnier at nfurnier@stmm.net or 919-657-4800 x7309

Confirmation- contact the coordinator at confirmation@stmm.net

St. Mary Magdalene | 919-657-4800 | 625 Magdala Place | Apex, NC 27502 US

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